

## Shopping & Services

Clarke County offers a variety of shopping opportunities: antiques, auto parts, farm and pet supplies, flowers, gifts, groceries, hardware, health foods, magazines, newspapers, prescription and non prescription drugs, videos and more.

Services offered locally include a variety of restaurants, banking, child day care centers, an active senior center, doctors, decorators, tailors, dry cleaner, sport and health centers, beauty and barbershops, auto repair, and more. All of the county's businesses provide quality products and friendly, personal, hometown service.

Shopping locally is not only convenient, it is important as well, providing a living for the owners and operators, many of whom are your neighbors. A portion of the state sales tax is returned to the county coffers.

For more information on local businesses, call the Berryville/Clarke County Chamber of Commerce (955-4200) or Downtown Berryville, Inc. (955-4001).

## Community Activities

The efforts of many volunteers support numerous educational, social, and recreational activities in the county. Within Clarke's boundaries lie the State Arboretum of Virginia, a portion of the Appalachian Trail, the Ruritan fairgrounds, two recreational parks and two golf courses, the Shenandoah River, a branch of the regional library, and several historic sites.

Music in the park, the Clarke County Fair, fishing, hunting, the Hot Air Balloon Festival at historic Long Branch, river activities, horse shows, educational classes, the 4-H, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, a variety of sports and more are listed in the local newspapers.

Contact the Clarke County Parks & Recreation Department (955-5140) for information on sports activities and programs for children and adults, and the Chamber of Commerce (955-4200) for information on other activities.

## Fast Facts



**County Seat:** Berryville, chartered in 1798.  
*A Virginia Main Street Community*

**Size:** Clarke County is roughly fourteen miles from east to west and eighteen miles from north to south, an area of 175 square miles. It is sixty miles NW of Washington, DC.

**Population:** Almost 13,000 as of January 2000. That includes 3,000 people who live in Berryville as well as those who live in the Town of Boyce and the villages of Millwood and White Post.

**Health or Fire Emergency:** Call 911.

### Medical Centers:

Winchester Medical Center (722-8000)  
Loudoun Medical Center (703-858-6000)

### Local government offices:

• Town of Berryville:	955-1099
• Town of Boyce:	837-2901
• Clarke County:	955-5100

### Schools:

• Clarke County Public Schools:	955-6100
• Powhatan (Private):	837-1009
• Grafton (Special Needs):	542-0200

<b>Library:</b>	955-5144
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## Checklist for New Residents

- Get vehicle stickers within 30 days: 955-5108
- Register children for school: 955-6100
- Register to vote: 955-5168
- License your dog: 955-5160
- Regional Landfill: 665-5658
- Taxes/Payment questions: 955-5160
- Get a business license:
  - Within the Town of Berryville: 955-1099
  - Within the Town of Boyce: 837-2901
  - All other locations in county: 955-5108
- Get a building permit: 955-5112
- Driver's license information: 1-866-368-5463
- Get a county map, a list of churches and a list of activities at the Chamber of Commerce Office: 955-4200
- Bookmark the Clarke County web site: <http://www.co.clarke.va.us> to access detailed information about the county government and other useful information.

## Local Newspapers

- |                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| • Clarke Times-Courier (weekly):    | 955-1111 |
| • Winchester Star (6 days):         | 667-3200 |
| • Northern Virginia Daily (6 days): | 662-5868 |



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## A RESIDENT'S GUIDE

# CLARKE COUNTY VIRGINIA

*—a place in the heart*

This information provided courtesy of the  
Clarke County Board of Supervisors and the volunteers who  
researched and wrote this brochure.



Native Americans inhabited this area for centuries before the first Europeans settled the region in the mid-1700s. Clarke County was originally part of the five-million-acre holding of Thomas, Lord Fairfax, who lived at Greenway Court, near White Post. George Washington surveyed land here for Fairfax. Included in the county is a 50,121-acre grant issued to Robert “King” Carter, land agent for Lord Fairfax.

Scots-Irish, English Quakers, and Germans migrated here in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The ethnic and economic differences between the owners of the large plantations east of Opequon Creek (now Clarke County) and the farmers with smaller holdings who inhabited the rest of Frederick County contributed to the formation of Clarke County in 1836.

Several mills were built during the same period, when wheat was the dominant cash crop. The most notable is the Burwell-Morgan Mill, established by Nathaniel Burwell and Revolutionary War hero Daniel Morgan in 1782.

Several Civil War battles and skirmishes were fought in Clarke County, and postwar reconstruction came slowly. There was little building activity and migration into the county until the 1880s. After the Civil War, the freed black slaves, who had been critical to the plantation economy of the county, created their own communities—Josephine City, now part of Berryville; Lewisville; and Millwood.

As Clarke transitioned from the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries, many local businesses found themselves victims of changing times. Mr. Thomas’s carriage shop gave way to mass production, for example, and the wheat farmers, who were unable to compete with the vast farms and growing rail systems of the Midwest, turned to apples, dairy and beef cattle operations. The arrival of the railroad in 1886 gave rise to the Town of Boyce and established the county as a crossroads of commerce.

The twentieth century brought great growth in the county, beginning with a migration of wealthy families from the North. They bought and restored older homes, thereby continuing the county’s tradition of stewardship. The county was home to Harry Byrd, Sr., governor of Virginia and United States Senator.

While Clarke’s agricultural base remains intact, the twentieth century saw the arrival of more light manufacturing. The Doubleday book printing plant (now Berryville Graphics), Smalley Package, American Woodmark (which took over the former Byrd cannery), and others took advantage of the rail line and proximity to Washington and the eastern ports. These factors make Clarke County a place to earn a good living and still enjoy a rural atmosphere.

What will the future bring? As the twenty-first century unfolds, Clarke County maintains a unique sense of continuity linking its historical past and its promising future. We are who we were, in a sense, and look to the technology of the future to help us preserve the ambiance of the past.

The Clarke County Historical Association (CCHA) maintains a museum and archives in Berryville and owns and operates the Burwell-Morgan Mill as a working museum in Millwood. For more information on the county’s history, contact the CCHA at 955-2600 or visit their website at [www.clarkehistory.org](http://www.clarkehistory.org).



### Preservation & Planning

The unspoiled expanse of rolling farmland, beautiful mountain views, and historic towns, which remains little changed from colonial times, speaks to the efforts of the county to plan for the future. The goal is to allow sensible growth while preserving the county’s unique character.

The county contains two towns (Berryville and Boyce), two villages (Millwood and White Post), five historic districts (Berryville, Cool Spring Battlefield, White Post, Greenway, and Longmarsh Run), two National Historic Landmarks (Greenway Court and Saratoga), and seventeen properties that are listed on state and national historic registers.

Nearly thirty thousand acres (forty-six square miles) have been placed in an agricultural district by landowners who voluntarily pledge not to apply for a change in zoning. The Board of Supervisors renews this district every six years in an effort to encourage voluntary conservation of farmland in the county, as this designation limits development and major road and utility construction.

More than 13 thousand acres (over 20 square miles) are protected from development in perpetuity because they have been designated as conservation easements.

The county enjoys fifty-seven miles of scenic byways. Self-guided driving tours of the

Greenway and Longmarsh Run historic districts follow many of these scenic by-ways. Call the Planning Department at 955-5132 to find out where brochures are available.

**The Clarke County Comprehensive Plan** charts the county’s goals for the future. The plan, which is reviewed every five years, calls for a balanced approach to growth and preservation of the rural character of the community while striving to improve the quality of life, maintain a diverse and viable local economy, and provide necessary public services. For more information on the county’s comprehensive plan, call the Planning Department at 955-5132.

### Citizens in Action

Clarke County has always had a sense of community. Some call it a small town atmosphere, but it is more than that. No matter what the activity, people from every corner of the county come together in their efforts to make the community a better place to live.

All citizens are encouraged to participate in the civic, recreational and service organizations that maintain the ideals we hold so dear. Volunteers read to children in school, fight fires, provide rescue services, protect the Shenandoah River, help at the Senior Center, fix up deteriorating housing, coach youth sports teams, feed and clothe the poor, drive the sick to doctors, become Big Brothers and Sisters, raise money for charities, pick up trash along our scenic by-ways, help in the library, preserve our historic and natural resources, and more.

Volunteers gain a tremendous amount of personal satisfaction from their work. It’s possible to help as little as a few hours a month—most volunteer organizations can work around the schedule of the busiest county resident.

To learn more about community-wide volunteer services, call the county office (955-5100), the Berryville town office (955-1099) or Downtown Berryville, Inc. (955-4001).